4666 - 27th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
16 December 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 87
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

There is really no adequate way to express my gratitude for all of the effort and valuable time you have expended in order to bring us some realization of the enormity of what has been done in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy. I include your wife in my thanks since I know all too well what a wife endures when her husband is driving himself as you so obviously have done - and are still doing.

For some years I have given all my attention, every minute I could spare from being a housewife and a moderate amount of money to a different line of research and study. In April or May of this year I received the first of several communications suggesting that I compare our findings with some of the analyses of the Warren Commission Report. This had to do with the manner in which various government agencies had handled - or mishandled - investigations of our subject and their ridiculous and, far too often, completely false conclusions.

As with so many others in my field, I was increasingly disturbed by the attitude of "The Establishment" and the attempt to sell the public a point of view that was in direct opposition to the truth.

To reassure you, this has nothing whatsoever to do with any political philosophy. Nor is any religious belief or disbelief involved. We do, however, feel that what we are trying to accomplish is every bit as important, in a very different way, as what you are doing. I merely want to explain this so you will know I am not a professional patriot. I do love my country but see no purpose to carrying a soapbox and making a career of faultfinding.

Like the average person, I had accepted the Report and had been so busy I had not looked below the surface. Our newspapers followed the suit of the others and proclaimed that now all was well since the assassin had been identified. My first reaction to even a hint that the Report was wrong was quite violent. Never was anyone so sure of anything as I was that there could not possibly be a parallel to the situations we had discovered - at least, not in one lifetime.

Finally, a friend put three one-dollar bills on the table and stipulated that they were to furnish myself with the October "Playboy" to learn the truth about Jim Garrison, "Whitewash" and "Whitewash II" by a man named Harold Weisberg. He said he had read all the books on the subject and that yours are, in his opinion, the most credible. You are welcome.

I read and I became angry; I read more and became more angry and quite distressed that such an outrage had taken place. This was the reaction

my colleagues had expected. They also knew I could not sit quietly and wait for others to do something. So I took the action they knew I would take.

It is my opinion that Bob Ruark of WLCY radio is one of the most important individuals in this area of Florida and I also believe he is completely unaware of that importance. I hope he considers me one of his friends.

After a few days' thought, I called in one night with a suggestion that the listeners read the "Playboy" interview with Jim Garrison. This call was met with a diatribe from the same caller who has been so bitter in his questions to you. So I called another night with a little more on it. These calls coincided with the news releases about Josiah Thompson. Bob, in response to a question from some caller, said that perhaps he would try to get Dr. Thompson as a guest some night if there was enough interest. This was what I had been waiting for and hoping would happen.

The next day I phoned Bob and told him it was my feeling that, whatever Dr. Thompson might have written, it would almost certainly be what you had already covered and in more detail in your two books. The rest you know.

Dr. Thompson raised numerous questions in my mind. I have better than the average knowledge of the methods used by the intelligence community of this country and how it reacts when it discovers what may be only a small thing, but a thing that might erupt and reveal what has been withheld from the public, a suppression for which there is too often no justification beyond protecting our government from the anger of the citizens of <u>this</u> country, not because of any foreign power. Usually the foreign powers have acquired this information and only the U.S. citizen is kept ignorant - "for his own good".

I am aware of books written with the connivance of one or more representatives of a group or agency upon which an "attack" is ostensibly being made in the books. You have seen this done regarding the assassination. We have found this tactic all too familiar in our field. We further have sound reason for suspecting that some of these books are published and well publicized through the dubious courtesy of subsidies from some agency in our government.

So, I distrusted Dr. Thompson. It is true that if he arrived at his conclusions the way he claimed then this tended to back your contentions. But. He seemed to have had access to evidence and testimony that even the Warren Commission found was withheld from it. One thing was what he claimed to have learned was shown in the autopsy photographs. This is something that was not available even to the Warren Commission.

I take it for granted that all purchasers of the complete set of 27 volumes are carefully entered on a record for future reference. And I wonder about the kind and degree of attention they may receive if they make too many waves. We shall see. To my knowledge, there is but one set in St. Petersburg at this time and the owner is known to me.

If the callers to WLCY radio seem a little unreasonable in their skepticism sometimes, please bear with them. All of us here have been sheltered from such unpleasantness as this with which we are now faced. They hate to be

forced to consider that there is something else that is just as dangerous to our way of life as extreme right or left wings. This is why Bob Ruark is so important. He makes it possible for us to question so many in various other fields and thereby become better informed and, we hope, better citizens.

The program remains on the air for another hour after the guest has left and numerous questions have been raised that you did not hear. I will put them on another page so that, if you choose, perhaps you can cover them at the beginning when you are next our guest.

You mentioned a letter from Mr. Hoover giving you permission to examine certain evidence and testimony and, if I recall correctly, asking for cooperation with you by whoever is in charge of the archives. If Bob Ruark does not have a copy of this letter, perhaps you could arrange to send him a copy. He would use it to your advantage.

Incidentally, Bob has never, to my knowledge, recommended the purchase of any book on his programs until he suggested that listeners provide themselves with yours.

I mentioned the parallel in the treatment of the assassination and that of another kind of investigation. There are so many instances that are beyond even the wildest coincidence. If I had not been prepared by my own research in the other field, I would have found it hard to accept the fact that our government has the degree of disrespect for the office of President of the United States and the utter disregard for the life of a lesser citizen that has been evidenced.

From past experience with Congressional investigations into things concerned with the intelligence agencies, I do not place much confidence in the outcome of another. These can be, and have been, stacked to favor any result desired. The only hope I can see is success by Jim Garrison and I sincerely wish him the very best. If he loses, the entire country will have lost.

Enclosed is a money order in the amount of $6.50 for your last two books. I hope you receive many more orders. You have earned a great deal,

Thank you again for having worked so hard on this. It is appreciated by any who take the trouble to read what you have written.

Sincerely,

Helen G. Hartmann

(Mrs.) Helen G. Hartmann

Encl: $6.50 M.O.

Questions asked by WLCY radio audience, St. Petersburg

1. What was the occupation of Marina's father? Was Marina a member of the Communist party?
2. Where was Oswald employed while in Russia? Did he receive any type of training there? The statements of the person asking this question implied that he was trained as a Russian agent or secret police.
3. Why weren't the photographs taken from inside the sewer distributed through the news media?
4. What about all the rumors that President Johnson had been shot in the hand?
5. What about the allegation that Oswald took a shot at Walker (Gen. Walker)?
6. If true, why didn't Marina show good faith as a resident of U.S. and turn him in?
7. If Oswald was not the assassination, do you think for one minute that Robert Kennedy would let it go as is? Does this make him part of the conspiracy?
8. Are you a left-winger - as if it is anyone's business?
9. How about the possibility that the rifle could have been fired as rapidly as would have been necessary? The tests made by experts.
10. What is your basis for stating Oswald could not park a car? Is there testimony from the driving instructor?
11. How long beforehand was it made public the motorcade would take the route it did?